



# NEWS RELEASE

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Office of Public Affairs, 377th Air Base Wing, 2000 Wyoming Blvd. S.E.  
Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico 87117-5606, (505) 846-5991/7019. DSN 246-5991  
E-Mail address: pam@commgate.kirtland.af.mil

### BASE'S VEHICLE OPERATIONS NAMED FLIGHT OF THE YEAR IN COMMAND

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**KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M.** – The 377th Transportation Squadron's Vehicle Operations Flight is the Air Force Materiel Command Vehicle Operations Flight of the Year.

This is the third time in the last four years that the flight has won such a prestigious award.

The flight has pursued continuous improvement under the Quality Air Force System. These improvements have resulted in the transportation of more than 27,000 passengers and 3 million pounds of cargo over 110,000 miles. The flight has done this in a safe and timely manner.

The flight quickly responded with expert personnel to seven aircraft crashes. From January through April, the flight provided invaluable assistance in five separate helicopter crashes. The operators loaded and transported a downed F-16 on Kirtland AFB.

The flight also received a letter of appreciation from the 58th Special Operations Wing for the loading and transporting of a crashed UH-1N Huey helicopter on base.

The flight also supported sister services by providing top-notch personnel and equipment to a Marine C-130 that ran off the runway in Grants, N.M.

The flight furnished the Joint Theater Missile Defense Attack Operations unit with highly skilled operators and equipment to support their on-going training missions, saving JTMD thousands of dollars in contracting fees.

Vehicle Operations also worked hand-in-hand with the Defense Evaluation Support Activity. They traveled over 25,000 miles, hauling equipment.

The flight also excelled in its everyday operations. In six months, five airmen volunteered to improve their vehicle operator skills at the 4153rd Army Reserve Forces School. The airmen

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learned battle tactics, how to survey terrain and maintain heavily-damaged vehicles. They also learned how to drive under difficult and unusual conditions. They received official commendations from Brig. Gen. N. Bruce Burdett, assistant division commander.

Self-help projects have illuminated the pride of everyone in the flight and saved the Air Force \$20,000 in contracting costs. Several members engineered the move of an excess vehicle shelter to their compound. They also voluntarily landscape around the flight pavilion and surrounding buildings, and they painted the equipment support facilities.

The flight also supported the community by remaining constantly involved with Team Kirtland and the City of Albuquerque.

The fleet management section worked alongside the city to help keep it a “clean air attainment city.” The flight converted 43 Air Force Materiel Command vehicles to compressed natural gas. This involved all associate units on base to ensure maximum participation.

For 12 straight years, Vehicle Operations has sponsored a three-day canned food drive for All-Faiths Receiving Home.

Over 24,000 pounds of canned and dry goods were picked up from 40 elementary and middle schools and delivered to the home. Transportation troops sorted and stacked the goods for the home. This will help feed over 400 abused and neglected children through-out the coming year.

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**STORY BY:** Airmen 1st Class Brenda Dedman and George Allen

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** For more information, contact Senior Airman Paul Gritton, (505) 846-7019/5991.